

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01781 042150Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3713

CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 1781

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, II
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THE GOC AND THE USG

REF: A) STATE 48049 B) 76 SANTIAGO 11544

1. THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO EX-PRESIDENT FREI (REF A) WAS DELIVERED MORNING OF MARCH 4. FREI MOVED FAST; A FEW HOURS LATER A PUBLIC STATEMENT APPEARED WITH THE TEXT OF THE LETTER, AND A SHORT LETTER OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT WAS DELIVERED TO THE AMBASSADOR. IN HIS MESSAGE, FREI EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND SAID IT CONFIRMED THE HOPES PLACED IN HIM BY SO MANY PEOPLE IN AMERICA, WHO PLACE TRUST IN HIS HIGH POSITION AND SENSE OF MORALITY. FREI CONCLUDED WITH THE HOPE SOME DAY TO EXPRESS HIS THANKS PERSONALLY. EMBASSY POUCHING THE ORIGINAL TO ARA/AND/CH.

2. WHEN EMBOFF HANDED THE LETTER TO A FREI CONFIDANT FOR DELIVERY, THE LATTER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING TO COMPLAIN OF THE HARM EARLIER DONE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) BY ALLEGATIONS MADE BY EX-AMBASSADOR KORRY (SEPTEL). HE SAID THESE CHARGES AND THE GOC EXPLOITATION OF THEM ARE RUINING THE PDC, AND THEREBY THE ONLY DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, OPINION WITHIN THE PARTY IS TURNING STRONGLY AGAINST THE USG. JUSTLY OR NOT, PARTY FAITHFUL HAVE HELD THE PRESENT U.S.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01781 042150Z

ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING TO PASS UNCHALLENGED THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT PDC RECEIPT OF CIA MONEY. HE ADDED RHETORICALLY THAT HE RISKED HIS OWN REPUTATION WITHIN THE PARTY BY SEEING SOMEONE FROM THE EMBASSY.

3. THE SOURCE SAID THE EX-MINISTERS OF THE PARTY HAD CONSULTED A LEADING WASHINGTON LAWYER ABOUT BRINGING SUIT AGAINST KORRY (REF B).

ON HIS ADVICE, THEY DECIDED TO DROP THE IDEA AS UNPRODUCTIVE, BUT THIS LEAVES THEM COMPLETELY UNDEFENDED WITHIN CHILE. THEY WANT TO HAVE MADE PUBLIC THE NAMES OF THE TWO MINISTERS KORRY SAYS TOOK MONEY, SO THAT THE PARTY CAN CONFRONT THE ISSUE. MOREOVER* THE SOURCE SAID FORCEFULLY THAT THE USG HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO DENY THE CHARGE.

4. EMBOFF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PDC PROBLEM AND HIMSELF WAS APPALLED BY WHAT WAS HAPPENING. HE NOTED THE USG POLICY NOT TO CONFIRM OR DENY ALLEGATIONS SUCH AS KORRY'S, AND SAID HE DOUBTED THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE INTERLOCUTOR'S REQUEST.

5. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S LETZER WILL GO FAR TO MOLLIFY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND, WE CAN BE SURE, WILL BE FULLY EXPLOITED BY THEM IN CHILE. WE CAN EXPECT THE GOC TO BE CORRESPONDINGLY UNHAPPY WITH THE USG, AND TO CONTINUE THE MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PDC BASED ON THE KORRY REVELATIONS. SOME OF ITS UNHAPPINESS WILL BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE EMBASSY, WHICH IT WILL ASSUME IS IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER.

POPPER

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